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# Interviews— Give and Take

by Nancy Butler

Technical Journalism Senior

"ONE THING that still amazes me is the interest the women who are established in the Home Economics field have in a green graduate!"

If you're a little bewildered at finding yourself about to become a "green graduate" looking for a job only a few years after recovering from the title of "green freshman," this statement from a recent Iowa State College graduate should be encouraging. It should be encouraging, too, to hear that graduates say that getting that first job is one of the most exciting experiences of a lifetime.

Naturally you'll feel a little uncertain about what you're going to run into when you begin thinking about a career, but there are some certainties you can count on.

## ISC graduate

You're a graduate in Home Economics from Iowa State College—that's a big point in your favor right there. One home economist executive in a large business put it this way: "We classify Iowa State College as one of the leading home economics colleges. We know that girls from Iowa State have had as good training as can be secured at any school in the country." Iowa State girls have been taught to work, which is important in business.

A surprising source of information on job openings will be the interviews themselves. If there are no positions available at the company where you interview, the interviewer is likely to give you the names of other people to contact—often with permission to use his or her own name as an introduction.

Be prepared for interviews that will be a little more involved than the ones you're used to in connection with summer jobs. After all, you're starting a career instead of just two or three months of work. Graduates have found that people in business are very generous about giving time for interviews even if there isn't a position available at the time. Often a tour of company offices, cafeteria, test retakers laboratories and studios goes along with an interview.

## Answers to know

Most companies ask these questions at interviews:  
In what line of home economics did you specialize?  
What do you know of our company and products?  
Do you plan to work for several years or do you contemplate marriage soon?  
What were your extra-curricular activities in school?

## Company quote

This quote from a company with a large home economics department may help you get a better idea of what employers look for in a prospective employee:

"We are much more interested in the girls who want to give something to the job rather than get something from it. A number of applicants have asked about salary first, how long a vacation they get and what their chances for advancement would be. To us, this is entirely the wrong approach. If a girl tells us the things she has done in school, the courses she has taken, the interests which she has had, knows something about our company and can give us an idea of how her qualifications fit into an opening or a possible opening we would be much more likely to consider her as an applicant. We like to interview the girl who has poise and rather definite ideas about what she wants to accomplish."

It will be a lot of fun—finding this new career of yours. A guarantee of this comes from a graduate who says, "I'm willing to guarantee that any girl who really tries to find out about Home Economics in business will be equally as enthusiastic as I am. After talking to many other girls I find we are, as a whole, an envied group."

Phyllis Slivon, Home Economics Senior in Textiles and Clothing, gives the answer to that perennial question: "What shall I wear to the interview?"

